

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Criminal Investigation Division  
Investigative Activity Report**

**Case Number:**

1000-0494

**Case Title:**

Cooke Aquaculture Fish Farm Release

**Subject of Report:**

2018-03-29 Interview of [REDACTED], Former Cooke Aquaculture Employee

**Reporting Office:**

Seattle, WA, Area Office

**Activity Date:**

March 29, 2018

**Reporting Official and Date:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

30-APR-2018, Signed by: [REDACTED]

**Approving Official and Date:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
07-MAY-2018, Approved by: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**SYNOPSIS**

On March 29, 2018, [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED], a former employee of Cooke Aquaculture in Anacortes, Washington.

**DETAILS**

On March 29, 2018, I interviewed [REDACTED], a former employee of Cooke Aquaculture in Anacortes, Washington. After being notified of the identity of the interviewing agent, the nature of the interview and agreeing to the interview being recorded, [REDACTED], in substance, provided the following information:

**BACKGROUND:**

[REDACTED]

**RECORDED INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS:**

(6:07) He worked directly for Cooke Aquaculture General Manager [REDACTED].

(9:45) In 2017, Net Pen sites #1 and #2 were “definitely” towards the end of their lives and cracks and their deterioration were apparent.

(14:00) Net cleaners were less effective once mussels set in on the nets.

(16:15) Only the inside of the fish pen and the outside of the predator pen were cleaned. The bottom of the nets was not the focus of the net cleaning process. Floors were not done any time after the 2016 net change.

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(23:00) Net pen cleaners were down for “substantial” amounts of time prior to the July and August incidents. Net pen cleaners were shared among the other sites and farms.

(27:50) No Cooke Aquaculture written policy on net pen cleaning procedures.

**PART 2 OF INTERVIEW:**

(4:50) He saw considerable damage done during the July incident with Net Pen #2. He believes the structure was possibly compromised.

(16:11) He estimates that the bio-fouling of Net Pen #2 prior to the July incident would be categorized between 8-10 on a 10 scale.

(17:00) Net Pen #2 had not been cleaned in the last 2-3 months prior to the July incident.

(20:00) Net Pen #2's nets could have been replaced in approximately 3-4 days.

(24:00) He sees currents and tides like the ones in July and August this several times per year.

(27:15) Management was aware of the poor bio-fouling conditions of Net Pen #2 prior to the July Incident.

(33:40) The fish contained within Net Pen #2 could have been harvested in July.

(42:00) The bottom of Net Pen #2 was not being cleaned as a part of regular net maintenance.

(100:19) He is aware of the Clam Bay incident in which a net pen broke loose.

(113:40) Innes Weir was falsifying the fish release totals “substantially.”

Agent note: This IAR is not a verbatim transcription of the interview. This interview will be transcribed later and used in this case investigation.